

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04 AID-20 PC-10 NIC-01 CU-04

OMB-01 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 221003Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8605

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO 2961

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

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E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: PINS PINT PGOV ET

SUBJ: MOSLEMS DEMONSTRATE FOR EQUALITY

REF: ADDIS 4304

1. AN ESTIMATED 100,000 PEOPLE PUT ON WHAT IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN ETHIOPIA'S LARGEST-EVER DEMONSTRATION APRIL 20 IN FAVOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR COUNTRY'S MOSLEMS. THE 5-HOUR EVENT WAS MARKED BY EXTRAORDINARY DISCIPLINE AND RESTRAINT AND CAME OFF WITHOUT INCIDENTS. PRIOR TO DEMONSTRATION MOSLEMS CIRCULATED FLIER TELLING THEIR CHRISTIAN BROTHERS THEY PLANNED MARCH FOR EQUALITY AND INVITING LATTER TO JOIN WITH THEM. MANY DID. OUR ROUGH GUESS IS THAT ABOUT 1/3 OF THOSE WHO TURNED OUT WERE CHRISTIAN.

2. POSTERS CARRIED BY PARTICIPANTS CALLED FOR SEPARATION OF (ESTABLISHED) CHURCH AND STATE; EQUALITY OF RELIGIOUS RIGHTS; EXTRACTION OF RELIGION FROM SCHOOL CURRICULA; EQUAL RIGHTS FOR MOSLEM WOMEN  
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AND EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM; "ETHIOPIA BELONGS

TO ALL"; RELIGION IS AN INDIVIDUAL RIGHT; "ETHIOPIA IS NOT AN ISLAND OF CHRISTIANITY - WE ARE ETHIOPIANS TOO\*"

3. SLOGANS SHOUTED BY THE MARCHERS URGED NEW CABINET DELCARE SECULAR STATE; EQUAL TREATMENT FOR ALL; AND FULL PARTICIPATION BY MOSLEMS IN NATION BUILDING PROCESS. HERE AND THERE WERE CRIES FOR RESIGNATION OF ENDALKACHEW CM, BUT THESE APPEARED COME PRIMARILY FROM NON-MOSLEMS (INCLUDING ESTIMATED 3000 STUDENTS) WHO JOINED MAIN EVENT. DEMONSTRATORS WOULD THEIR WAS THROUGH CENTER OF TOWN FOLLOWED BY POLICE IN TRUCKS. THEY STOPPED NEAR PARLIAMENT TO HEAR (4) PRE-DESIGNATED SPEAKERS ELABORATE ON THE EQUALITY THEME IN MEASURED TERMS AND EXPLAIN MOSLEM DEMANDS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO PRIMIN (CF ADDIS A-87).

4. THERE WERE VARIOUS OTHER DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE FRINGES OF THE MAIN ONE. FOR EXAMPLE, APPROXIMATELY 1500 GONDARIS WHO HAD COME TO TOWN BY BUS DEMONSTRATED DOWNTOWN FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE ENDERASSIE OF GONDAR.

5. EDITORIAL OPINION IN THE APRIL 21 PRESS HIGHLIGHTED THE DISCIPLINE OF DEMONSTRATING MOSLEMS, BACKED THEIR DEMANDS FOR AN END TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEM AND URGED INTERCOMMUNAL FRATERNITY. A MORE TRADITIONAL ATTITUDE, HOWEVER, ALSO APPEARED TO BE GAINING STRENGTH. THIS WAS THE VIEW OF THOSE INCLINED TO REGARD THE MARCH AS A MOSLEM CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH. WE HEARD REPORTS, UNCONFIRMED AT THIS WRITING, THAT THE PALACE TRIED IN EXTREMIS TO HAVE THE DEMONSTRATION CALLED OFF AND THAT THE PRIMIN GAVE THE FINAL GREEN LIGHT FOR IT AT 5AM IN THE TEETH OF PALACE OPPOSITION. BE THAT AS IT MAY, IT BECAME APPARENT APRIL 21 THAT PLANNING FOR A MASSIVE CHRISTIAN COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION APRIL 22 WAS UNDER WAY. AND BY EVENING APRIL 21 RADIO/TV WERE QUOTING PRIMIN, WHO URGED CHRISTIANS ESCHEW DIVISIVE COUNTER-GESTURE AND SUBSITUTE CHURCH ATTENDANCE AND PRAYERS FOR NATIONAL UNITY. WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MOSLEMS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 APR 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** MOSLEMS DEMONSTRATE FOR EQUALITY  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, PGOV, ET  
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